

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete the sub-heading before paragraph [0001] and add the following new sub-headings and paragraph:

**-- PRIORITY CLAIM**

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP2003/06619, filed on 24 June 2003. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) is claimed from German Application No. 102 28 870.4, filed 27 June 2002.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Field of the Invention --

Please add before paragraph [0002] the following new sub-heading:

-- 2. Description of the Related Art --

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] A drive device of this type is known from [~~DE 198 22 498 A1~~] U.S. Patent No. 6,412,224, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. This known drive device calls for improvement, [~~however,~~] especially with respect to the materials from which the individual parts are made.

Please add before paragraph [0003] the following new sub-heading:

**-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --**

Please delete paragraph [0006] in entirety.

Please add before paragraph [0015] the following new sub-heading:

-- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** --

Please add before paragraph [0016] the following new sub-heading:

-- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** --

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The piston 3 is provided with a [~~set of teeth (not shown), which mesh~~] toothed rack which meshes with a pinion 6 on the closing shaft 4. This has the result that a displacement of the piston 3 in the longitudinal direction of the housing 1 produces a rotational movement of the closing shaft 4.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The [~~set of teeth~~] rack on the piston 3 is preferably formed as an inlay of metal, e.g., steel. This inlay is embedded in the plastic during the injection-molding of the piston 3.

Please delete paragraph [0024] in entirety.

Please add at page 5, after the heading, the following sub-heading:

-- What is claimed is --